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C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 000035

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [ENRG](#) [IN](#) [PK](#) [INDO](#) [PAK](#)

SUBJECT: INDIA UPBEAT ON PAKISTAN COMPOSITE DIALOGUE

REF: ISLAMABAD 002

Classified By: Ambassador David Mulford, Reasons 1.4 (B,D).

1. (C) Indian readouts track closely with Islamabad's detailed and generally positive assessment of the December 27-28 meeting of Foreign Se

2. (C) Enumerating specific deliverables from the December meetings, Saran flagged the following:

-- commitment to the immediate consular notification of civilian detainees which will avoid the current situation in which official notificat

-- agreement on the informal "push back" of Kashmiris, especially children, who wander across the LOC. This will be accomplished without a

-- an accord for regular meetings of local military commanders along the LOC;

-- conclusion of a calendar for official meetings that will run through August/September 2005;

-- Pakistan's proposal to open up religious shrines (which Saran lauded as "an important development");

-- and "progress" on pre-notification of missile tests.

Saran said the two sides "narrowed differences considerably" and should be able to sign a final agreement in "one or a few" more rounds.

3. (C) Saran was similarly upbeat about his meetings with Foreign Minister Kasuri and Prime Minister Aziz. Asked about transit rights to P

Responding to Prime Minister Aziz's point about the economic benefits of the pipeline, Saran observed that all these arguments also apply to

4. (C) Comment: Saran referred briefly to the January 3 death of NSA (and back channel envoy) JN Dixit -- warning this would leave a "gap" in
MULFORD